



LOS ANGELES AREA
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

April 12, 2018

Senator McGuire, Chair
Senate Government & Finance Committee
CA State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

SUBJECT: SB 946 (Lara, D-Bell Gardens) – OPPOSITION

Dear Senator McGuire,

On behalf of the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce (L.A. Area Chamber), representing more than 1,650 organizations and 650,000 employees across the region, I am writing to respectfully oppose SB 946. This bill would take away local control provisions for sidewalk vendors and create a blanket regulatory process for all municipalities in the state of California.

The City of Los Angeles, along with stakeholders and advocacy groups, has been part of a robust and in-depth conversation around the regulatory framework for this complex new industry for some time now. The passage of this bill would bring an end to these discussions and undo the carefully crafted work thus far.

Street vending is an important economic and cultural component in the City of Los Angeles, but our needs may be different than that of other municipalities. We agree on the need for a regulatory framework to ensure vendors have a sense of security and do so in a way that protects the health and welfare of their patrons. However, Los Angeles is one of the most diverse cities in the state, with a wide variety of areas and districts that require different approaches. This bill would create too much of a one-size fits all approach, thereby harming local businesses.

The L.A. Area Chamber prides itself in pursuing thoughtful policies that strengthen the small business community and enhance quality of life in our region. This bill would remove protections not just for brick-and-mortar businesses, but would take away local control around vending in parks and open space. Los Angeles is already facing challenges when it comes to limited green space, including homeless encampments. It is vital our local leaders be able to tailor policies that strike a balance between vendor needs and all other stakeholders.

For these reasons, the L.A. Area Chamber respectfully opposes SB 946. If you have questions, please contact Diana Yedoyan, at (213) 580-7558 or olee@lachamber.com.

Sincerely,

Gary Toebben
President & CEO